

October 26, 1900, the day of the big celebration in Marlinton over the completion of the C. & O. Railroad to this point. Regular passenger service to Marlinton began on December 17, 1900 [and ended on January 8, 1958].

Another date in the history of the Greenbrier Branch and not one for celebration will be the 29th of this month when the line is abandoned. We have checked with the C&O at Hinton and as far as they know now there will be a train operated that last week — up on the 27th and down on the 28th.

We are still looking for history and photos concerning the Greenbrier line. For example there must have been a flock of people taking photos on January 8, 1958, when the last passenger train ran. If you have some please loan them to us to share with our readers.

GRAND RALLY!

October 26th. 1900.

FIRST TRAIN IN MARLINTON!

BARBECUE, POLO, TOURNAMENT, FOOT-BALL, CORONATION, AND TOURNAMENT BALL!

General Manager, CAPTAIN A. E. SMITH
Speaker of the Day, SENATOR N. C. McNEIL
Secretary & Treasurer, B. N. RAYBURN
Marshall, COLONEL A. C. L. GATEWOOD
Address to Knights, S. B. SCOTT, Jr.
Coronation Address, W. A. BRATTON
Clowns, W. A. SLAVEN and B. B. BARTLETT
Judges of Tournament, LEVI GAY, W. W. TYREE, J. M. CUNNINGHAM.

PROGRAMME.

11 to 1 o'clock, DINNER, [Roast Ox]
1 to 2 o'clock, POLO GAME
2 to 5 o'clock, TOURNAMENT
3 to 5-30 o'clock, FOOT-BALL [Marlinton vs Frost]
7-30 to 12 p. m. CORONATION and TOURNAMENT BALL.
BALLOON ASCENSION at night by Prof. A. A. PICKERING.

Attraction of the Day!

"THE MOUNTAIN BEAUTIES" (The eight Cravat Sisters,) of Hendricks, will furnish music for the occasion. This is the only Ladies Band east of the Mississippi River.

ride. A parade was formed and the speaker of the day, Sen. N. C. McNeil, was escorted to the speakers stand from which an appropriate address of welcome, happy descriptions of the past and prophecies for the future were made by the jovial Senator. At the close of the speech Ye Knights of the Tournament formed in gallant array marched to the course. The competitors for the saddle and honor of crowning a Queen of Love and Beauty were Messrs. Clark, McLaughlin, Dr. Marshall, Galford, King, and Smith. W. D. Clark won the first prize. Will Clark, owing to an infringement of the rules in carrying his lance, was given second prize.

The football game was won by Marlinton by a score of 2-0 in one of the most stubbornly contested battles ever waged on the local gridiron. The addresses delivered at the coronation ball were most suitable for the occasion, "bright the lamps shown o'er fair women and brave men." Miss Daisy Mann was crowned queen. The dancing was continued until an early hour. So closed one of the most eventful days in Marlinton history. The crowd is estimated from 1200 to 3000. Good order was maintained and all committess and participants in the exercises are to be congratulated on the success of the occasion. From The Pocahontas Times November 1, 1900

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Fete Day in Marlinton (October 26, 1900)

While no special committee had been appointed to consult with the weather prophets in the selection of a day for the rally no more happy selection could have been made. Conveyances of all kinds commenced to arrive at an early hour and by noon an immense crowd had assembled, horses filling all the livery stables, alleys and side streets of the town. The ox had been roasting from an early hour and when the time had come when the Injin ate the wood chuck there were many mouths ready to devour him. The special train bringing the band from Rocky Point arrived about one o'clock, this attracted many people to the railroad and some of the small youngsters had their first ride. A parade was formed and the speaker of the day, Sen. N. C. McNeil, was escorted to the speakers stand from which an appropriate address of welcome, happy descriptions of the past and prophecies for the future were made by the jovial Senator. At the close of the speech Ye Knights of the Tournament formed in gallant array marched to the course. The competitors for the saddle and honor of crowning a Queen of Love and Beauty were Messrs. Clark, McLaughlin, Dr. Marshall, Galford, King, and Smith.

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From The Pocahontas Times
November 1, 1900

LOCUST CREEK COVERED BRIDGE

by Katherine M. Beard

Our 1979 Pioneer Days souvenir badge commemorates Locust Creek covered bridge, a part of our Pocahontas County heritage which has been serving the needs of the people for over one hundred years.

Many times the question arises, "Why a covered bridge?" The first bridges in America were simply round logs fastened together. There were no side rails or walls. Later trusses were added and then the sides were boxed in. The top of the boxing was covered with flat boards laid on the slant. The direction of the slant could be either toward the floor of the bridge or outward to shed water away from the bridge's floor. After a time the bridges were partially covered particularly the portion that housed the toll house keeper's station. Finally the entire structure was covered to protect the timbers from the weather. This last statement is the answer to the question. Flooring could be replaced more easily but protection of the supports and trusses added many years to the life of the bridges.

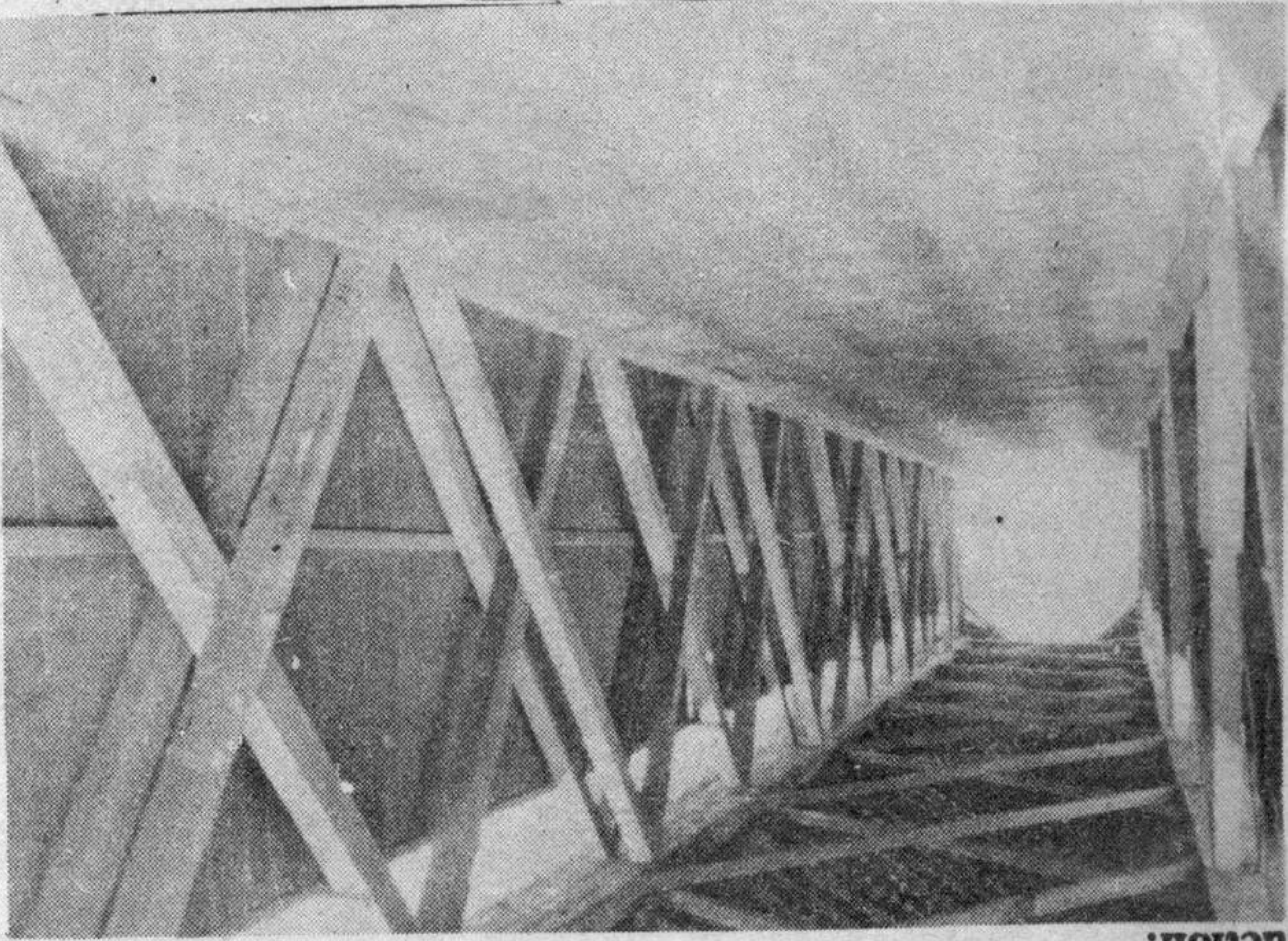
Many other reasons for building bridges with covers have been given: to provide shelter in the time of rain storms, to give a young swain a quiet place to steal a kiss from his best girl, to keep horses from shying at the water through the flooring, to keep snow off of the floor, etc.

Covered bridges found other uses than carrying traffic across the stream. Circus posters could be nailed on the sides of the bridge and in election years candidates for the various offices found their pictures glaring at them as they traveled through the countryside electioneering. Locust Creek bridge spans Locust Creek in a nature setting. It can be reached by turning off the east side of U.S. Route 219 two miles south of Hillsboro on Locust Creek Rd. [20] and proceeding three miles to its junction with Rt. 31.

Locust Creek is a continuation of Hills Creek and Bruffeys Creek which both sink beneath Drop Mountain on the opposite side. They join underground then resurge and submerge again before resurging at a spring on the east side of Drop Mountain as Locust Creek. It flows 3 1/2 miles with a fall of 135 ft. to the Greenbrier River.

A springtime visitor might see blossoming service trees along with the chartrreuse of other vegetation and possibly thrill to the high notes of a Louisiana waterthrush as Locust Creek flows swiftly toward its rendezvous with the Greenbrier River. Giant sycamores have been dominating the scene for many years. Indigo Buntings, Vireos and Wood Pewees find the woods' edge to their liking.

After viewing the picturesque, well preserved bridge from the outside a peek at the architecture of the interior is still more amazing. The wooden two span structure is one hundred thirty feet long and constructed of massive oak timbers. Along each wall are ten double sets of "X" supports of huge timbers, joining joists of four massive side-by-side timbers running the entire length of the bridge on each side. The roof rests on these. A covered bridge butt might put it all together and call it Howe-type construction.



The bridge is a segment of the original road established by the pioneers linking Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties. Court records [Book 7, page 200] show that on the 16th of May, 1870, petition was made to locate a road at or near Josiah Beard mill on Locust Creek leading to the Greenbrier County line at or near Charles Collier[?].

The first name we have record of in connection with the bridge is George B. Cochran. In 1879 [Court Record] he was paid \$20.00 for the Locust Creek bridge. Mr. Cochran is remembered to have been a carpenter. He lived near the Greenbrier County line with property in both counties. A grandson, Mr. J. K. Rock, of Hillsboro, has a square which as his grandfather's.

In 1904 the bridge Mr. W. M. Irvine Virginia, rebuilt the as it stands today. stayed in the home married a daughter builder's supply was was a maker of [Rachel] Taylor, of Dunkle, deceased. For many years b teamsters hauled t Locust Creek bridge done as the mill w down stream side. As the mill and th some history of the the Josiah Beard N pioneer, had come on lands at Locust given to him in his Falling Spring Pr Pocahontas County period of the Coun He seemed to hav of the county and Locust Creek he se home he discovered called up the dogs, skilled hunter and wolves. Quite a n neighborhood so fa In the meantime clerk. That official reasons of his abse the wolves killed a meet most any tim kill wolves could b Apparently the Mr. Edwin Beard, Around 1897 the who operated the n on a sluice on a Will died in Johns Hop The next mill ope here may not be his Mr. Charles Donn Snedegar and the operated the mill Jacox to attend m Mr. McCoy inste was too low to t destroyed by a fir Mr. Donnelly u groceries to his c The mill was us which extended fr County line, and Greenbrier River Mrs. Sidney Mc some Federal sold some of the local near by and were Our Pocahonta instrumental in r reinforcing the fo vehicles take their

In 1904 the bridge cover was in disrepair because of a decaying roof. Mr. W. M. Irvine who had come to Pocahontas County from Staunton, Virginia, rebuilt the interior supports, trusses, sides and roof of the bridge as it stands today. He was assisted by his brother Clem. The Irvines stayed in the home of Mrs. Moffett Beard [now the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. N. Beard] while working on the bridge. In 1907 Mr. W. M. Irvine married a daughter of the home, Miss Grace Beard. He operated a builder's supply warehouse at Seebert [later moved to Huntington] and was a maker of fine furniture. They had two daughters, Mrs. Floyd [Rachel] Taylor, of Huntington, and Mrs. Bernie [Virginia "Jack"] Dunkle, deceased.

For many years before the coming of the railroad to Pocahontas County teamsters hauled their loads from Ronceverte and Lewisburg through Locust Creek bridge. It was very essential for farmers getting their milling done as the mill which was in a stone's throw of the bridge was on the down stream side.

As the mill and the bridge were so closely linked, it might be well to give some history of the mill. As mentioned previously it was listed in 1870 as the Josiah Beard Mill. Mr. Beard, the youngest son of John Beard, the pioneer, had come from Renick's Valley in Greenbrier County and settled on lands at Locust Creek. The Locust Creek Plantation and Mills were given to him in his father's will of 1808. At age 18 he was a ruling elder in Falling Spring Presbyterian Church and he was the first clerk of Pocahontas County. He served in that capacity during the formative period of the County's history. Mr. Beard was an expert hunter.

He seemed to have his own ideas as to how to promote the best interests of the county and would sometimes carry them out. While residing at Locust Creek he set out one morning to attend court. On the way near his home he discovered fresh wolf signs. He hastened back, got his gun, and called up the dogs, and sent Aaron, a colored servant, who was also a skilled hunter and a dead shot, to beat the laurel brake and drive out the wolves. Quite a number were killed and the pack retreated from the neighborhood so far back into the mountains as to give no further trouble. In the meantime court met and adjourned owing to the absence of the clerk. That official however was present next morning and explained the reasons of his absence, believing it would do the people more good to have the wolves killed and scattered than to hold court that day. Court could meet most any time, but it was not every day that such a good chance to kill wolves could be had.

Apparently the mill operation was passed along to the youngest son, Mr. Edwin Beard, later a Hillsboro merchant. Around 1897 the mill property was bought by Mr. Patrick Mason Henry who operated the mill about three years. Mr. Henry was hurt in a log jam on a sluice on a Williams River log job in the fall of 1901 and subsequently died in Johns Hopkins Hospital in the spring of 1902. The next mill operator was a Mr. Dunlap and some later operators listed here may not be listed in proper sequence: Mr. Val Perkins, Mr. McClure, Mr. Charles Donnelly, Mr. Henry Poague, Mr. Tate Hiner, Mr. Richard Snedegar and the last operator, Mr. Sidney McCoy. When Mr. Snedegar operated the mill he walked across Droop Mountain from his home at Jacob to attend mill operations.

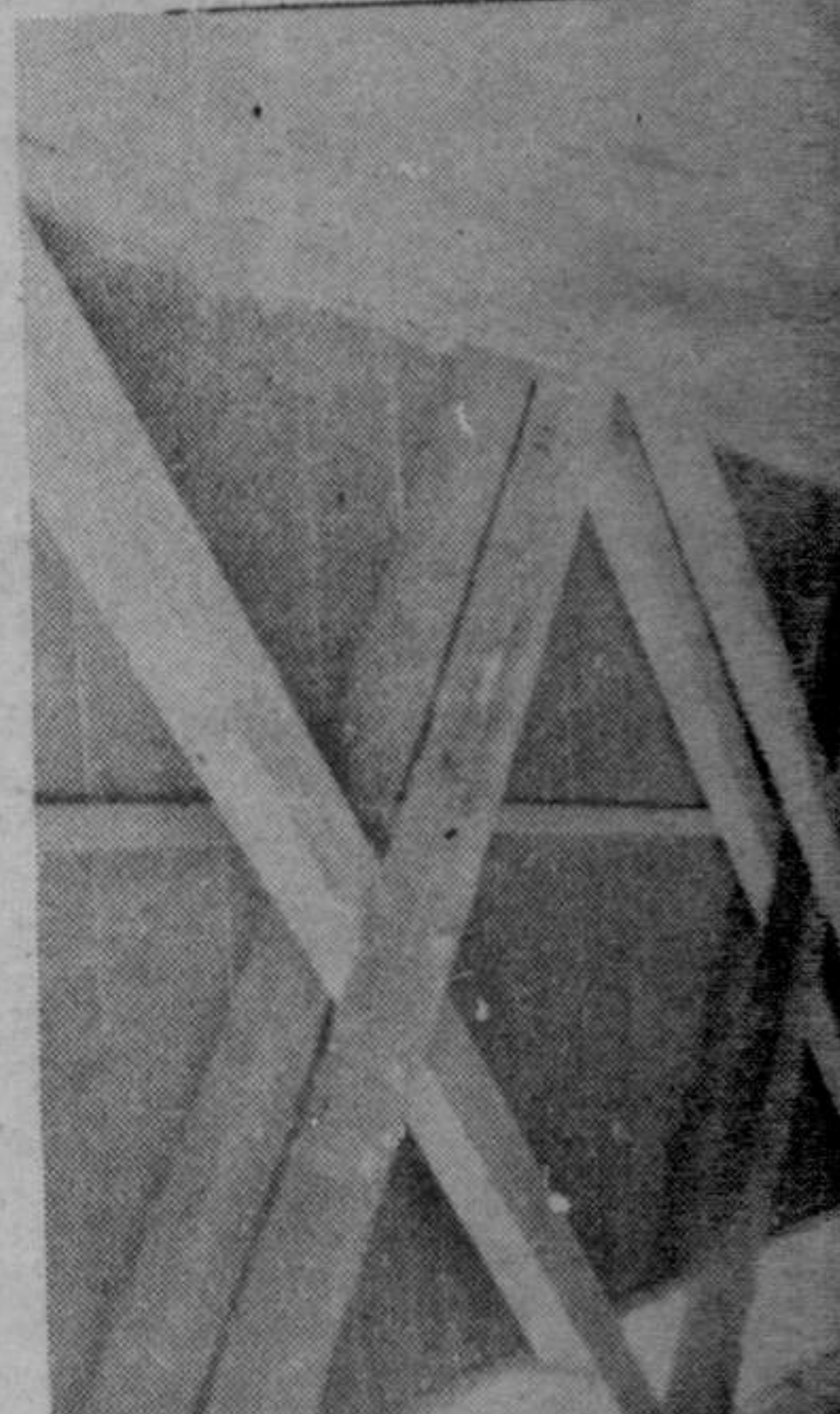
Mr. McCoy installed a gasoline motor which he used in times the water was too low to turn the mill wheel. Around the 1940's the mill was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin. Mr. Donnelly used the office also as a store where he sold staple groceries to his customers. The mill was used for many years as a polling place for Beard precinct which extended from the Jordan place [at Mill Run] to the Greenbrier County line, and took in the east side of Droop Mountain and across Greenbrier River to Laurel Run.

Mrs. Sidney McCoy remembrers having been told that during the war some Federal soldiers set fire in the basement of the mill one night, but some of the local men who were fearful this might happen were hidden near by and were successful in extinguishing the fire. Our Pocahontas County Department of Highways has been very instrumental in keeping proper maintenance of Locust Creek bridge, reinforcing the footers with concrete, etc., as daily traffic and heavier vehicles take their toll. This relic of the past is in good condition in 1979.

ED BRIDGE

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Forrest McLaughlin

Forrest P. McLaughlin, 91, of Lewisburg, died Friday, October 31, 1980, in a Fairlea home after a long illness.

born in Pocahontas County, Maryland, May 28, 1889, he was a son of the late Mitchell and Emma McLaughlin.

McLaughlin was a member of the Clifton Presbyterian Church at Maxwelton; a former employee of the Department of Highways and a retired Greenbrier County farmer.

His wife, Lula Feamster McLaughlin, preceded him in death.

Survivors include a son, John McLaughlin of Richwood, Virginia; a daughter, John R. (Mary Karr) McLaughlin, of Princeton; a brother, Richard K. McLaughlin, of Lewisburg; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday at 2 p. m. in the Memorial Chapel of McCraw Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Spencer Hamrick officiating. Burial was in Rosewood Cemetery in Lewisburg.

Gilbert H. Morrison

Gilbert H. Morrison, 77, of Hillsboro, died Friday, October 31, 1980, in Allegheny Regional Hospital, Lowmoor, Virginia, after a long illness.

born March 27, 1903, in Hillsboro, he was a son of the late Harvey and Mary Hill Morrison.

Mr. Morrison was a farmer and a member of the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

Funeral services were held Monday, October 27, at 2 p. m. in the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, with Rev. Butcher officiating. Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Hillsboro.

Beulah J. Huffman

ANKFORD — Mrs. Beulah J. Huffman, of Frankford, Greenbrier County, died Friday at home after a long illness.

She was a member of the Church of God, living: husband, Fred; sons, Nile, and unknown, Harold of Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre, Washington, D.C.; sister, Mrs. Kenova Huffman of Clifton Forge, Va.; brother, William of Fairlea.

Funeral services will be 2 p. m. Wednesday in Jack Wallace Funeral Home, Lewisburg, with Rev. Jack K. Wallace officiating. Burial will be in Frankford Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 p. m. and from 7 to 9 p. m. today at the funeral home.

Mrs. Pauline Mae Sheets

Mrs. Pauline Mae Sheets, 54, of Kirby, Hampshire County, died Monday, April 27, 1981, in National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

Born May 19, 1926, at Cass, she was the daughter of Nola Bennett Dahmer, of Cass and the late Gilbert Dahmer.

Mrs. Sheets, a former resident of Cass, was a member of Cass United Methodist Church.

Besides her mother, she is survived by her husband, William B.; daughter Diane Cornell, of Falls Church, Virginia; son, William Gary, of Kirby; sisters, Mrs. Martha Levisay, of Staunton, Virginia, Beulah Moore, of Marlinton, Virginia, Wanita Filuta, and Charlotte McClure, both of Augusta, Georgia; brother, Gilbert D. Dahmer, Jr., of Canton, Ohio; four grandchildren.

Services will be held at 2 p. m. Thursday in Cass United Methodist Church with the Rev. Kenneth Farris and the Rev. Eddie Kyle officiating. Burial will be in Arbovale Cemetery.

John Franklin Jordan

John Franklin Jordan, 94, died Sunday, February 8, 1981, in Pocahontas Memorial Hospital.

He was a farmer and member of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

Born at Hillsboro February 2, 1887, he was the son of James William and Fannie Shover Jordan.

Two brothers, Winters and Harry, and three sisters, Mary Hall, Lucy Hokum and Myrtle Jordan preceded him in death.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m., Tuesday, by Rev. J. D. Arbuckle in the Van-Keenen Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Jan. 1982

PHIPPS, Mrs. Bessie H. — Memorial service will be at 7:30 p. m. today in McCraw Funeral Home, Lewisburg, with the Rev. Spencer Hamrick officiating. Burial will be Friday in Hillside Memorial Cemetery, Akron, Ohio. Friends may call after noon today at the funeral home. Mrs. Phipps, 67, of Maxwelton, Greenbrier County, died Tuesday in Greenbrier Valley Hospital, Fairlea, after a long illness. Surviving: husband, Kent; stepsons, Phillip Baston of Akron, John K. Phipps of Knoxville, Tenn., David W. Phipps of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; sister, Mrs. Sally Elkins of Littleton, Colo.



"Young" Couple Celebrate 68th Wedding Anniversary

June 25, 1981

Richard and Mary Ellen Smith McCarty were married June 25, 1913, at Hillsboro, at the home of her parents.

Dick, age 94, and Mary, age 92, were born at Hillsboro and have lived at their present residence 61 years.

They are the parents of two children, Mrs. Maynard (Sarah) Dilley, of Marlinton, and Bill McCarty, of Buckeye.

Die d PAUGH

Charles Lewis Paugh, 78, of Hillsboro, died Thursday at home after a long illness.

Born April 25, 1903, at Upper Glade, he was a son of the late Henry and Martha Paugh.

Paugh was a retired coal miner and a member of the Baptist Church.

His wife, Elma, preceded him in death.

Survivors include four sons, Charles Paugh, Jr. of Hillsboro, William Paugh of Webster Springs and Denzil and Joe Paugh, both of Cowen; two daughters, Martha Jean Mathews of Cowen and Tamma Brady of Guysville, Ohio and 18 grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday at 2 p. m. in the Upper Glade Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Roy Branch officiating. Burial was held in the Odd Fellow Cemetery at Cowen.

70

Ray McKeever

Ray W. McKeever, 74, of Hillsboro, died Tuesday, October 7, 1980, in the Greenbrier Valley Hospital after a long illness.

Born January 21, 1906, at Este, near Renick, he was the seventh child and fourth son of Giles Seward and Mamie Nicholas McKeever.

He served four years as Deputy Sheriff in Pocahontas County and four as State Probation and Parole Officer for Pocahontas, Nicholas, and Webster counties during the late 1950's and early 1960's. He also served on the ASCS Committee, Farm Bureau, Southern States Board and the Welfare Board. He was a livestock farmer in Hillsboro.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Bradford and Ralph, sisters, Mildred and Flossie.

Surviving are his wife, Hazel White McKeever, and five children, four sons, Shelton, of Stone Mountain, Georgia, Ralph, of Winchester, Virginia, Marion, Blue Grass, Virginia, and Wayne, of Sistersville; a daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Karnes, of Milton; six brothers, Kermit, of Charleston, Vincent, of Haverton, Pennsylvania, Harold, of Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, Glenn, of Ronceverte, Sturgis, of Statesboro, Georgia, and Ivan, of Lakeland Florida; a sister, Mrs. Carol Gibbs, of Oxford, Pennsylvania; 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held Friday at 2 p. m., in the VanReenen Funeral Home. Burial was in Mountain View Cemetery.

Mrs. Dovie C. Bowman

Mrs. Dovie C. Bowman, 81, of Hillsboro, died Monday, August 10, 1981, in Pocahontas Memorial Hospital. She had been ill 16 years.

She was a member of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro.

Born May 21, 1900, at Beard, she was the daughter of the late Michael and Marie McClure.

Surviving her are her husband, Orb L. Bowman, and a daughter, Ruth May Bowman.

Services were held Wednesday at 2 p. m. in VanReenen Funeral Home, with the Rev. Jack Arbuckle officiating.

Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Forrest McLaughlin

Forrest P. McLaughlin, 91, of Lewisburg, died Friday, October 31, 1980, in a Fairlea nursing home after a long illness.

Born in Pocahontas County, January 28, 1889, he was a son of the late Mitchell and Emma Greever McLaughlin.

Mr. McLaughlin was a member of the Clifton Presbyterian Church at Maxwellton; a former employee of the Department of Highways and a retired Greenbrier County farmer.

His wife, Lula Feamster McLaughlin, preceded him in death.

Survivors include a son, John Johnston McLaughlin of Rich Creek, Virginia; a daughter, Mrs. John R. (Mary Karr) Hickman, of Princeton; a brother, Richard K. McLaughlin, and a sister, Mrs. Lucy Beard, both of Lewisburg; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p. m. in the Memorial Chapel of McCraw Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Dr. Spencer Hamrick officiating. Burial was in Rosewood Cemetery in Lewisburg.

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Mr. Morrison was a farmer and a member of the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

Services were held Monday, at 2 p. m. in the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, with Rev. Butcher officiating.

Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Hillsboro.

Mrs. Beulah J. Huffman

FRANKFORD — Mrs. Beulah J. Huffman, 69, of Frankford, Greenbrier County, died Monday at home after a long illness.

She was a member of the Church of God, Renick.

Surviving: husband, Fred; sons, Nile, address unknown, Harold of Pennsylvania, Willard of Washington, D.C.; sister, Mrs. Kenova Madison of Clifton Forge, Va.; brother, Willard Scott of Fairlea.

Service will be 2 p.m. Wednesday in Jack K. Wallace Funeral Home, Lewisburg, with the Rev. Jack K. Wallace officiating. Burial will be in Frankford Cemetery. Friends may call after 2 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

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Mrs. Sheets, a former student of Cass, was a member of Cass United Methodist Church.

Besides her mother, she survived by her husband, William B.; daughter, Cornelia, of Falls Church, Virginia; son, William Gary Kirby; sisters, Mrs. M. Levisay, of Staunton, Virginia, Beulah Moore, of Marlinton, Virginia, Clara Good, of Virginia, Virginia, Wanita Filuta, Charlotte McClure, of Augusta, Georgia; brother, Gilbert D. Dahmer, Jr., of Canton, Ohio; four grandchildren.

Services will be held 2 p. m. Thursday in Cass United Methodist Church with Rev. Kenneth Farris and Rev. Eddie Kyle officiating. Burial will be in Arbuckle Cemetery.

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He was a farmer and a member of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

Born at Hillsboro February 2, 1887, he was the son of James William and Mary Shover Jordan.

Two brothers, Winter Harry, and three sisters, Hall, Lucy Hokum and Mary Jordan preceded him in death.

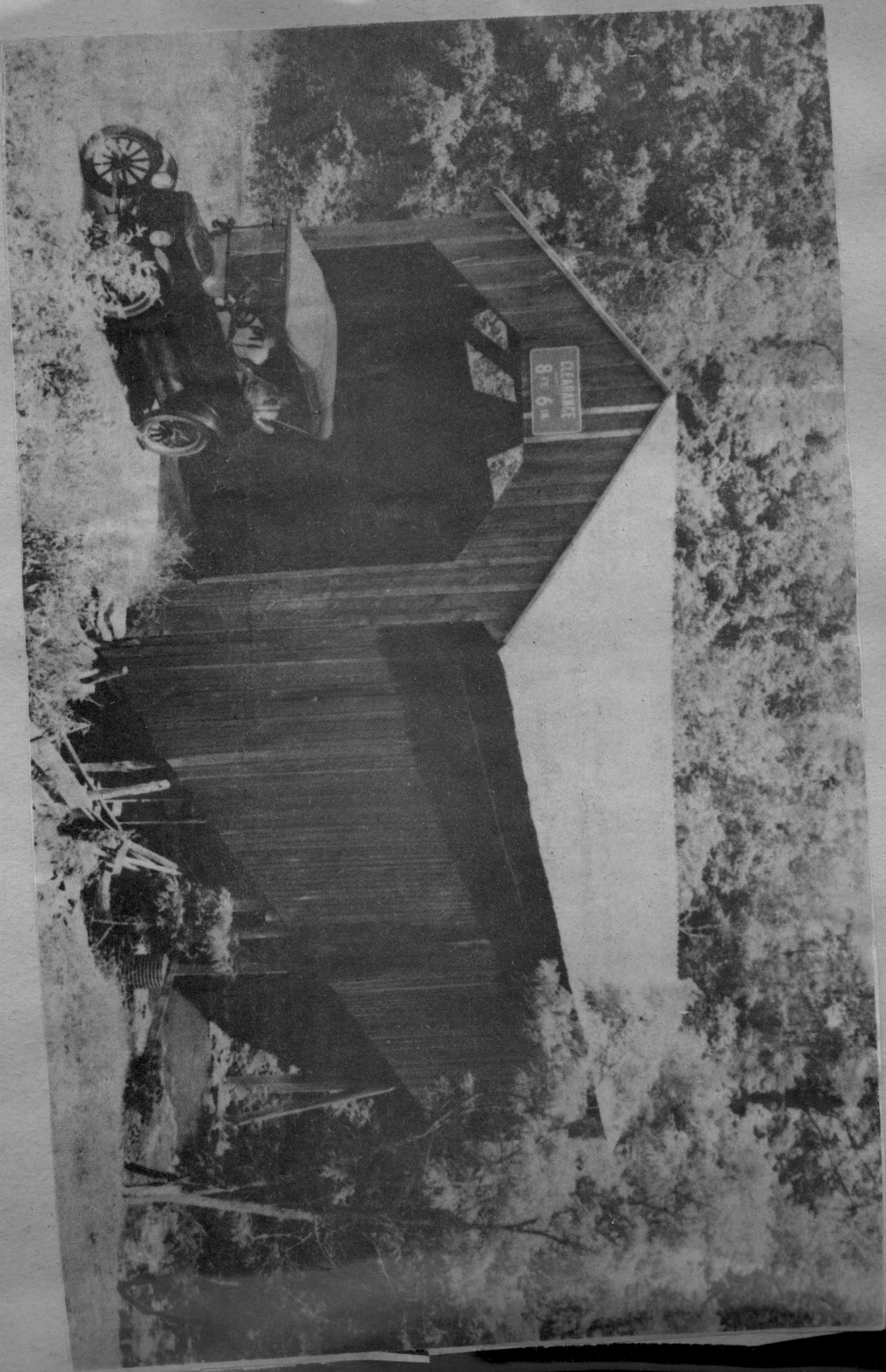
Survivors include a son, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held 2 p. m., Tuesday, by J. D. Arbuckle in the VanReenen Funeral Home with burial in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Jan. 1982

PHIPPS, Mrs. Bessie H. — service will be at 7:30 p.m. today in the VanReenen Funeral Home, Lewisburg, with Dr. Spencer Hamrick officiating. Burial will be Friday in Hillside Memorial Cemetery, Marion, Ohio. Friends may call after the funeral home. Mrs. Phipps, of Maxwellton, Greenbrier County, died in Greenbrier Valley Hospital after a long illness. Surviving: son, Kent; stepsons, Phillip Baston of Knoxville, Tenn., Phipps of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; sister, Elkins of Littleton, Colo.

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